



News from

Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego — District Three

NEWS RELEASE

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Preparing for Parklets to Pop Up in San Diego

Council Committee Reviews New Policy to Ease Approval Process

SAN DIEGO, CA (May 13, 2015) – Councilmember Todd Gloria today announced that parklets may soon pop up throughout San Diego thanks to [new rules](#) reviewed by the City Council Smart Growth and Land Use Committee.

“Parklets are popular means of bringing character and public spaces to our communities, and I am glad that the City of San Diego is making it easier to make these great additions to our neighborhoods,” said Councilmember Todd Gloria.

Parklets, or pedestrian plazas, are spaces in the dedicated public right-of-way like parking spaces, unused bus stops, or other vehicular areas that are publicly accessible to all and are intended to provide a space for enjoyable public interaction.

As a relatively new concept, parklets did not easily fit into permitted project categories, meaning extensive investment and review were necessary. The new policy lowers the review cost and clarifies the requirements for parklets including what needs to be submitted for a permit and location restrictions.

Among the regulations for pedestrian plazas:

- Costs: \$2,500 permit review fee (instead of the former fee of \$8,000); a \$477 Right of Way/Encroachment Maintenance and Removal Agreement is required; and an annual review of each parklet expected to cost an average of \$225.
- Location: cannot be located on streets with speed limits greater than 30 mph; may not be located within the visibility area of an intersection or driveway; and cannot be located on streets with a grade exceeding 2%;
- Design criteria: must contain some permanent seating and be inviting even when temporary seating and/or tables are removed; use of plants is encouraged; shall provide a setback of at least four feet from adjacent parking spaces; must not be wider than six feet from the curb line; and all areas within the parklet shall be made accessible;
- Effective date: policy will go into effect in non-coastal areas as soon as Ninth Update to Land Development Code goes into effect, likely on June 4. The California Coastal Commission will consider approving the policy for coastal areas of the City of San Diego at an upcoming meeting.

Pedestrian plaza construction and maintenance is privately funded. Two existing plazas are in Councilmember Gloria's district, one in front of Caffè Calabria (3933 30th St.) and near the Live Wire and Mama's Bakery (Alabama St. and El Cajon Blvd.). Both are extremely popular and generated interest from other people and business owners to add parklets elsewhere. Plazas are now being considered by The Moniker Group in East Village, Café Madeline in South Park, and Super Cocina in City Heights.

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